

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending and under consideration.

The pending Final Office Action rejects claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Yamaguchi (U.S.P. 6,519,471).

The rejection is traversed, and withdrawal of the Final Office Action is requested.

As discussed in a telephone conversation on March 17, 2005 between the Examiner and the Applicant's representative, Yamaguchi is not appropriate as a 35 U.S.C. §102(e) reference. The present application is a continuation of PCT/JP/99/02353 having a filing date of April 30, 1999 that is prior to Yamaguchi's PCT publication date of July 8, 1999.

As the Examiner indicated in the telephone conversation, the present Final Office Action would be withdrawn upon receipt of a response.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Applicant respectfully reminds the Examiner that if another reference is relied on by the Examiner in a further Action, it would not be appropriate for such Action to be a final Action.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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